## REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 have been canceled. Claims 2-3 and 5-8 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 3 for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,066 to Nagarajan et al.; claims 5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA and Nagarajan et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,526,070 to Bernath et al.; claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA, Nagarajan et al., Bernath et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,570,872 to Beshai et al.; and claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA and Nagarajan et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,891,788 to Kreifels. Applicants amend claim 3 in a good faith effort to clarify the features of the invention as distinguished from the cited references, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Examiner relied upon the description of the dynamic buffer partitioning for "support of multiple and varied QoS criteria" in Nagarajan et al.—e.g., col. 3, lines 2-3 thereof—as alleged suggestion of the claimed features for buffer management according to service class. The Examiner argued that the cited description in Nagarajan et al. inherently suggests the claimed conversion table for "allocating and re-allocating" buffer memory.

Applicants, again, respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to combine Nagarajan et al. with AAPA in the manner proposed without improper hindsight from the claimed invention. Nagarajan et al. describe a buffer management algorithm for an ATM switch and ATM cells, which is known to have a fixed length of 53 bytes—including a 5 byte header

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and 48 bytes of data. And <u>AAPA</u> only includes description of conventional IP packet (variable length) buffer management control having <u>fixed</u> memory areas allocated to each physical port or service class (CoS). Thus, absent improper hindsight from the claimed invention, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine the fixed length ATM cell buffer management algorithm described in <u>Nagarajan et al.</u> with the conventional fixed-area buffer management system for variable-length IP packets described in <u>AAPA</u> to yield the claimed invention, which includes "a conversion table in which allocated areas of said buffer memory corresponding to service classes are stored...[and which] modifies the allocated areas...according to the number of service class settings in [a] service class characteristic table."

Indeed, neither reference discloses or suggests simulating statuses of transferring packets having a variable length in an IP network, or the claimed conversion table. And even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to combine the references, the combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest,

> "[a] packet buffer management system used for <u>simulating statuses of transferring packets having a variable length in an IP network,</u> comprising:
> a packet type identification control portion <u>attaching a TAG information for identifying a service class to a received packet, which is of a variable length and is transferred in an IP network, according to an identification information of the received packet and outputting the received packet with the TAG information,</u>
> a buffer memory to store the received packet; and
> a buffer management control portion to control writing and reading the received packet attached with the TAG information to and from said buffer memory,
> wherein the buffer management control portion includes,
> a <u>service class characteristic table</u> in which an operation control is set for each received packet, corresponding to a service class, which is identified by the TAG information; and,

> a <u>conversion table in which allocated areas of said buffer memory corresponding to service classes are stored,</u> wherein said <u>conversion table modifies the allocated areas of said buffer memory according to the number of service class settings in said service class characteristic table,</u>" as recited in claim 3. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3, together with claim 2 dependent therefrom, is patentable over <u>Nagarajan et al.</u> and <u>AAPA</u>, separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons. The Examiner cited <u>Bernath et al.</u>, <u>Beshai et al.</u>, and <u>Kreifels</u> as additional combining references to specifically address the additional features recited in dependent claims 5-8. As such, the addition of these references would still have failed to cure the above-described deficiencies of <u>Nagarajan et al.</u> and <u>AAPA</u>, even assuming such addition would have been obvious to one skilled in the art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-8 are patentable over the cited references for at least the foregoing reasons.
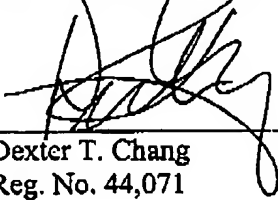
The above statements on the disclosure in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

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Respectfully submitted,

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